Medals for May, part I

Numismagram Newsletter #171 (V/2026)

With the arrival of May, we have another installment of new medals to our site for the beginning of the month. Given that it is just a few more days until Cinco de Mayo, a few items relating to Mexican history seemed more than appropriate, so first up is this pleasing Austrian-produced white metal medal serving as a memorial to Maximiliano—the French-backed Austrian nobleman who was a younger brother to *then*-Austro-Hungarian emperor, Franz Joseph…

After just a few years in power, Maximiliano's empire was overthrown, with him being sentenced to death. On this piece, the reverse features a female figure weeping over his execution, with his rather iconic portrait gracing the obverse.

Meanwhile, nearly a century later, a border dispute between the United States and Mexico—*that pertaining to the Chamizal territory*—would be settled…

Flooding of the Rio Grande had caused the border between the two nations to shift southward over time, essentially ceding more land to the United States. The source of growing concern among the neighbors, it was finally settled in principle in 1963, just a few months before the assassination of John F. Kennedy, who is one of the men depicted upon the obverse.

Though the weather here has seemingly dipped back into the unseasonably cool realm, it is springtime nonetheless, with the selection of fresh fruit greatly increasing at the local farmers' market. One noticeable addition to numerous stands over the past few weeks is the presence of cherries. As such, it seems only appropriate that we would have this pleasingly toned silver medal awarded in 1827 to a lieutenant Henry West for a dish of cherries—the *best* dish of cherries, in fact…

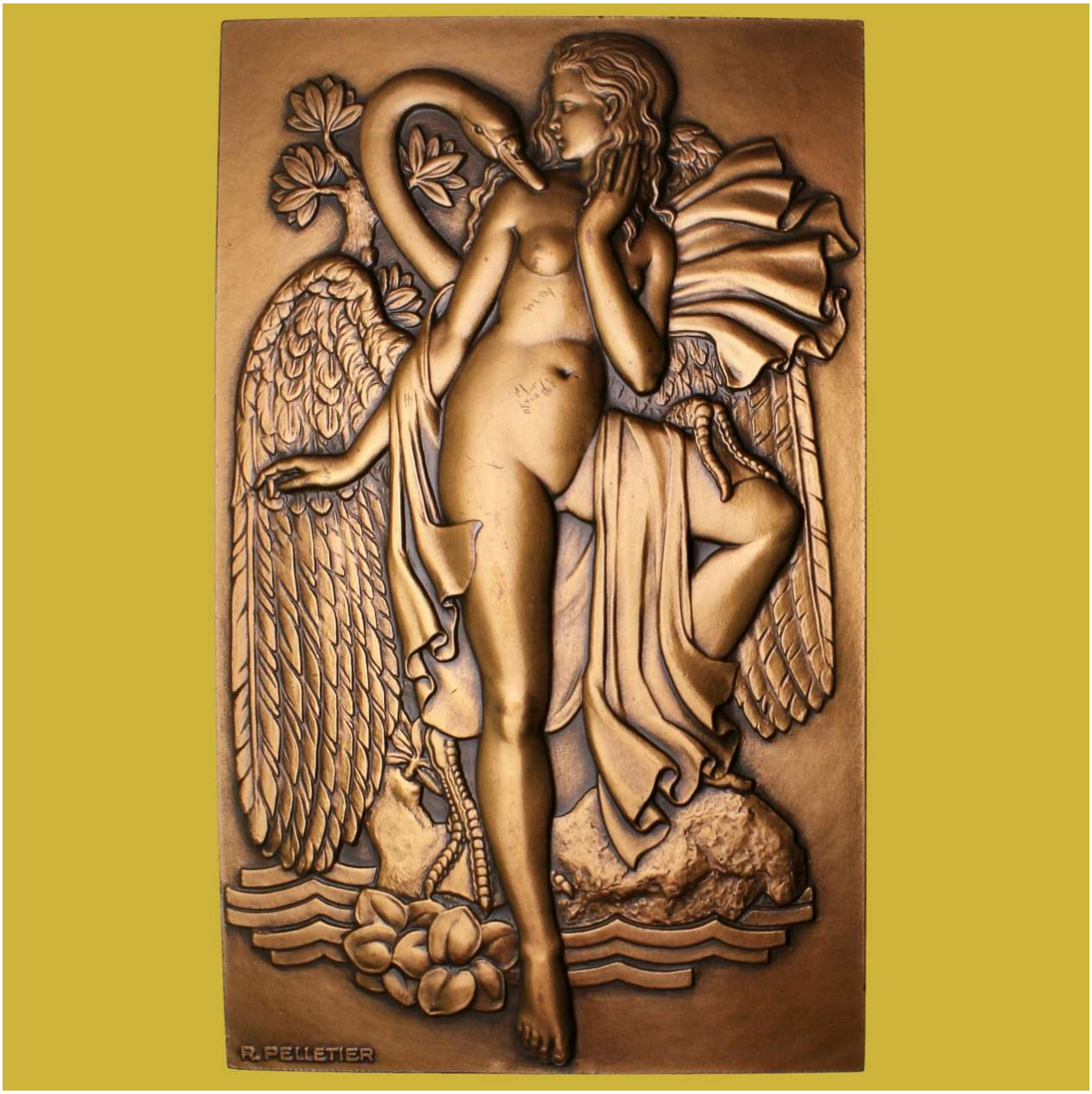
Other highlights of this upload include…

ITALY. St. Peter's Basilica bronze Medal. Issued 1857. Most Remarkable Edifices of Europe series (60mm). By Jacques Wiener in Brussels and struck at the Geerts mint in Ixelles.

GREAT BRITAIN. Sir Moses Montefiore white metal Medal. Issued 1884 for the 100th birthday of the British entrepreneur and Sephardic Jewish philanthropist (41mm). By A. D. Loewenstark & Sons in London.

GERMANY. Ferdinand Adolf Heinrich August Graf von Zeppelin & Dr. Hugo Eckener silver Medal. Issued 1928. The commissioning of the LZ-127 (33mm,). By the Ludwig Christian Lauer mint in Nürnberg. **PCGS SP-63**.

GERMANY & GREAT BRITAIN. "We Sail against England" zinc Medal. Issued 1940 on the intended bombing campaign by Nazi Germany against England (36mm). By Karl Goetz in München. **NGC MS-63**.



FRANCE. "Léda et le Cygne" uniface bronze Plaque Restrike. Issued 1986. *Édition de la Collection générale de la Monnaie* series (61x100mm, 234.62 g). By Raymond Pelletier at the Paris mint.

For all of this upload’s new items, please click **here** or on the banner art at the top of this newsletter. We’ll be back again in a few weeks on May 20th with our usual selection of museum-quality art, historical, and contemporary medals, and in a slightly higher number than usual—18 rather than 12. An upcoming trip in late May and early June means that, in lieu of an early June upload, we’ll be having slightly more in May’s second upload and in the following month's only upload on June 17th.

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